



ONAC College Savings Plan Four Directions Program

Wyman Kirk, 4D Cultural Specialist
ONAC Conference
July 18th, 2017

AIRC: Four Directions Program



- The American Indian Resource Center, Inc. (AIRC) is a Native-led nonprofit located in Tahlequah, OK. Founded in 1983, its mission is to develop culturally appropriate resources to meet the needs of American Indian communities. Pam Iron is the Executive Director.



- Four Directions is a grant project administrated by AIRC, Inc. whose goal is to provide an overall comprehensive approach in career and college readiness for 5th-8th grade American Indian students residing in Cherokee County, OK. Georgia Dick is the project director.

Work of the 4D Project



The Four Directions Project is a joint effort focusing on four main components: Leadership, Educational Enrichment, Financial Literacy and STEM Theory.

[Visit Site](#)

“Four Directions” also refers to the project collaboration between AIRC, Cherokee Nation, Cherokee Nation Immersion Charter School, and the Cherokee Nation Foundation.



4D Project Activities

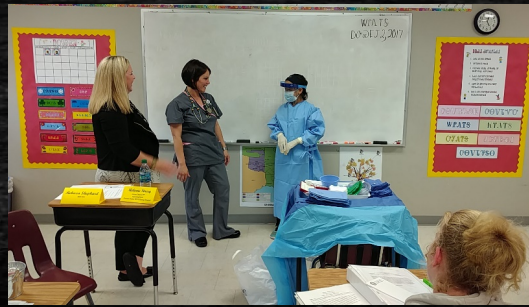
The 4D Project uses various activities to support its mission and goals. These activities are often linked together with initial classroom work that then leads to experiential learning.



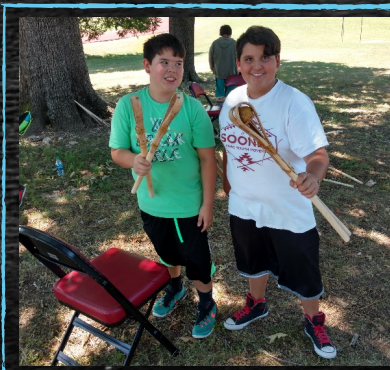
Career "Speed Dating"



"Power Hour"
(One to One Tutoring)



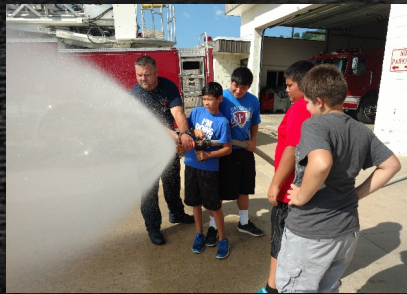
4D Project Activities



Cultural activities are also a core part of the 4D project with students learning about and experiencing their traditional lifeways.

Students play stickball, gig for crawdads, and also listen to elders (that's Sequoyah, aka Sue Thompson, above).

4D Project Activities



Job Shadowing & Work-Site
Field Trips



Tours of colleges &
universities.



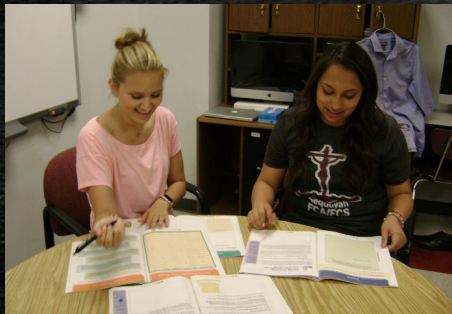
When activities deal with jobs, higher education, and work place topics, financial considerations are always one of the issues discussed.

Cost of attendance at various colleges and universities is one of the specific details students have to identify and address.

4D & Junior Achievement



JA's purpose is to inspire & prepare young people to succeed in a global economy



- *JA was chosen as the primary program to meet the 4D Financial Literacy objective.*
- 14 school sites grades 5-8 were selected with emphasis at the CN Immersion School

Grade	JA Program	Description
5 th	BizTown	Combines in-class learning with day-long visit to a simulated town. Students operate banks, manage restaurants, write checks, & vote for mayor.
6 th	It's My Future	Provides practical information about preparing for the working world.
7 th	It's My Business	Encourages students to use critical thinking to learn entrepreneurial skills. Skills include knowing customers' wants & needs, launching effective marketing, & creating detailed business plans.
8 th	Economics for Success	Gives students the information needed to build strong personal finances. They learn the importance of exploring career options based on their skills, interests, & values.
ALL	Virtual Finance Park	Month-long program that introduces students to personal financial planning & career exploration.

ONAC CSA & 4D



ONAC & 4D staff held an "account opening event" to facilitate setting up student accounts with parents.

- 30 students chosen based on attendance in the 4D after-school program at the CN Immersion School.
- Parents opened 529 accounts for their children with assistance from ONAC & 4D staff. Parents also filled out a program survey at the event.
- ONAC enlisted a local Cherokee artist, Matt Anderson, to do Cherokee crafts with the children.
- Snacks and door prizes were given out. In addition, ONAC gave out a bag of organic seeds with planting instructions for the students to take with them.
- ONAC managed to find additional funds for siblings of the selected students. So overall 40 children opened accounts.

4D & Student CSA's

This coming fall, 4D will follow up with those students who opened up a CSA with ONAC support.

They will be asked if any funds were added to their CSA's since it was opened. As well, they will work with their CSA's by using them for college & career planning.

